

BOROUGH OF REIGATE.



Annual Report

OF

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

1897.

J. P. HUMPHERY, A.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

REDHILL:

PRINTED BY HANDSCOMB & TIPPING,

SANITARY DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL, REIGATE,
January 18th, 1898.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you herewith my first Annual Report, and in doing so desire to thank you for your uniform kindness and consideration.

I also desire to express my gratitude to the Town Clerk and the Medical Officer of Health for the very valuable assistance they have at all times ungrudgingly extended to me.


I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. P. HUMPHERY,

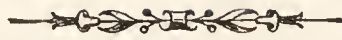
Sanitary Inspector.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30033329>

ANNUAL REPORT.



Scarlet Fever.

An entirely new system of dealing with infectious sickness has been in operation during the year, all notifications and certificates for removal being sent to me direct to the Town Hall during office hours, and at all other times to my private address. The average time from the receipt of the certificate to the removal of a patient is two hours, and I doubt if an improvement on this could be effected under the present circumstances, seeing that in each case Mr. Marsh, of Redhill, has to be instructed to send a horse to the hospital to fetch the ambulance, which he has always done with great promptitude.

When the nurse removes the patient she leaves a printed notice at the house calling attention to sec. 126 of the Public Health Act, which imposes penalties for exposing persons or things before disinfection, and also instructing the occupiers not to remove anything from the infected room until I have visited. The bedding, &c., is then removed, the room fumigated or sprayed, and a 48 hours' notice issued to whitewash the ceiling and strip the walls.

During the year all these notices, with but a very few exceptions, have been complied with within the time prescribed.

On the day of the receipt of the notification, notices are sent to the day and Sunday schools requesting the masters to exclude the children living at the infected houses from school until further notice, and if the members of the family are found to be engaged in any business bringing them in close contact with a number of people or food stuffs their employers are at once notified.

In view of the difficulties to disinfect with Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2) presented by the structure of some houses, I applied for and you provided me with one of Defries' Equifex Sprayers, by which apparatus disinfection is done by Perchloride of Mercury (HgCl_2).

As an evidence of how useful this has proved is the fact that 39 rooms have been done by this process.

In connection with the notices that are sent to schools, I intimated to the various managers that Article 101 of the Education Code provided for allowing the attendances of children excluded from school by reason of infectious illness in their houses, and the notices in question were equivalent to a certificate if the names were entered on a form provided by the Education Department and signed by an officer of the Local Authority. The managers of the majority of the schools have availed themselves of this form and secured a number of attendances which has very materially affected the Government Grant to the various schools.

Of the 83 private dwelling houses from which notifications of Scarlet Fever were received, 35 were found to be occupied by more than one family and may be roughly classified as under:—Sanitary conditions structurally—good, 21; fair, 35; bad, 27. Sanitary conditions otherwise (*i.e.*, due to occupiers)—good, 56; fair, 24; bad, 3. The disinfection in every case has been done by the Authority.

During the year nine houses in which laundry work was received from 30 families were invaded with Scarlet Fever. In each case the patient was removed to the hospital and the laundry work then on the premises disinfected, and an intimation sent to the several families.

No case was reported in any of the 30 families above referred to.

Typhoid Fever.

Specially constructed pails, that can be hermetically sealed, are kept in stock and were supplied to people who nursed Typhoid Fever in their houses, and arrangements were made for disinfecting all fœcal matter from the patients and then burying it in lime.

Small Pox.

Arrangements have been made with the Small Pox and Vaccination Hospital at South Mimms to receive cases of Small Pox from the Borough should any occur, but happily no such case has occurred.

Water Supply.

During the year 10 samples from wells supplying private houses have been submitted to Dr. Jacob for analysis, four of which have been found to be polluted, and the public supply laid on to the premises ; four have been reported as suspicious, and the owners requested to lay on the public supply, but I regret that none of them have seen fit to comply with the request.

The public supply has been laid on to two houses which have been reported as having an insufficient water supply.

During the year three samples of water taken from the public supply have been submitted to Mr. Otto Hehner, and his chemical and bacteriological reports thereon been presented.

Cowsheds and Dairies, Slaughter Houses, Stable Premises.

I regret that my time has been too much absorbed for me to give the attention in this direction that I desired, but during the coming year I hope to lay before you a detailed report upon these matters.

Smoke Nuisance.

This important phase of public health has received my attention. During the year I have made visits to premises in which furnaces are employed, and I regret to say that none were found to be of the type that is known as "Smoke Preventers," or to use a better term, "Heat Economisers."

In the majority of cases I found ordinary house coal instead of steam coal being used, but this the proprietors of the various establishments have altered at my suggestion, but I shall, as soon as time permits, lay before you still further reports upon this matter.

Gas Works.

I am pleased to note that I have received no complaints during the past year of smells emanating from these premises.

South Park Schools.

These schools have been drained and connected to the public sewer.

Food Supplies.

During the year I have inspected a large quantity of food, and have made frequent visits to the market held at Redhill on Saturday evenings.

Congress of Hygiene.

I attended as your delegate the Congress of Hygiene at Brussels, and my expenses were kindly subscribed for by several members of the Council. While there I had an opportunity of improving my knowledge in many ways, and on my return presented you a report of the proceedings.

Hospital.

(Accommodating Scarlet Fever only).

A striking feature with regard to the work of the Hospital during the past year has been the number of cases that have been removed as compared with the number notified, it being as

follows :—number of cases removed, 103; number of cases notified, 123. Of the number notified 11 occurred at St. Anne's Asylum, at which institution there is an isolation building for the treatment of such cases, and one was that of the cook at the Isolation Hospital. It will thus be seen that only eight cases were treated in private dwelling houses in the Borough, which shows that the inhabitants are showing a growing intelligent appreciation of the benefits of having such cases removed. It is worthy of note that during the whole year I have not received one complaint as to the treatment of the children during their detention at the hospital, but quite the contrary has been the universal verdict.

I have frequently asked children that have returned from the Hospital if they would like to go back, and they have always answered "yes," which, without further comment, reflects very great credit upon Mr. and Mrs. Briggs.

Only one death has occurred at the Institution, and that was of a child who was in a state of collapse when admitted, and was suffering with Diphtheria as well as Scarlet Fever. As soon as the patient in question was admitted, Dr. Palmer, with his usual consideration for the welfare of the patients, communicated with me and we opened the cottage and removed the rest of the patients from the ward, leaving the Diphtheritic one entirely to itself. Happily no other patient contracted the disease.

Drastic alterations, by which a great saving has been effected have been made with regard to the stores and staff. The whole of the stores are now supplied by contract and a permanent staff appointed.

Sickness in the Staff.

It is to be regretted the Cook contracted Scarlet Fever, and Mrs. Briggs for some time suffered with a bad throat.

Quarantine.

The Cottage near the Hospital has been kept to meet cases of emergency, and during the year seven persons have been admitted there. The value of such a cottage cannot be too highly

estimated, for it frequently happens a doctor is called in to see a patient that has a veiled type of disease which cannot with any degree of safety be sent into the infectious ward, or allowed to remain at home with other members of the family. Or again, as was the case once during the year, Scarlet Fever was reported at one of the largest dairy farms in the Borough, and the infected children, one of which was desquamating, were removed to the Hospital, and the rest of the family removed to the Isolation Cottage, while the whole of their cottage was being disinfected.

This effort was amply repaid by the fact that not one single case of Scarlet Fever was reported from the district supplied with the milk from the farm.

Return of Work under Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1897.

(DR. STEVENSON, Public Analyst).

Foodstuffs.	Samples taken.	Genuine.	Adulterated.	Remarks.
Milk ..	16	14	2	See legal proceedings
Butter ..	11	11		
Whiskey	12	10	2	See legal proceedings
Coffee ..	7	7		
Mustard	6	5	1	See legal proceedings

Unsound Meat, etc., Destroyed.

Description of Article.	Quantity.	Date of Seizure.
Beef	3 hind quarters and 1 piece of rump	Jan. 2
Tomatoes	17	Feb. 20
Mackerel	2 barrels	Oct. 22

Summary of Complaints received—Total 84.

No.	Purport.	Action taken.
29	Insanitary condition of premises	Reported to Committee and notices issued
8	Smells emanating from sewers	Referred to Boro' Surveyor
3	Animals improperly kept ..	Nuisance abated
28	Non-removal of house refuse	Referred to Boro' Surveyor
4	Accumulations of manure ..	Nuisance removed
2	Water in wells	See par. <i>re</i> Water Supply
1	Foul ditch	Nuisance abated
3	Factories and Workshops (Home Office)	Inspected and reported upon
6	Smoke Nuisance	See par. relative to this matter

Notices issued in 1897.

Section and Act.	No. issued.	No. complied with.	No. outstanding.
<i>a</i> Sec. 91 Public Health Act	101	95	6
<i>b</i> Sec. 36	81	53	28
<i>c</i> Sec. 41 (and 19 of 1890 Act ..	14	14	—
<i>d</i> Sec. 46	113	113	—
<i>e</i> Sec. 49	5	5	—
<i>f</i> Sec. 34 Factory & Workshops' Act, 1878	1	1	—
<i>g</i> Housing of Working Classes Act	7	6	1
<i>h</i> Sec. 70 Public Health Act ..	4	4	—
<i>i</i> Sec. 62	2	2	—
Totals	328	293	35

a To abate nuisances of various sorts.

b To provide "sufficient" closets and ashpits.

c To relay and repair defective drains.

d To cleanse, disinfect, etc., houses.

e To remove offensive accumulations.

f To limewash, etc., bakehouses.

g To make premises fit for human habitation.

h To close wells

i To provide a sufficient water supply.

Legal Proceedings, 1897.

No.	Nature of Offence.	Date of Hearing.	Result.
1	Exposing for sale un-sound meat ..	Feb. 15	Fined £5 and 15s. costs
2	Selling adulterated milk	Feb. 15	Fined 10s. and 12s. 6d. costs.
3	Selling milk deficient in butter fat	Feb. 15	"Not proven"; magistrates expressed their opinion that it was a very proper case to bring before them.
4	Houses unfit for human habitation	Mar. 15	Dismissed on technical point as to form of notice
5	Selling adulterated Whiskey	May 17	Fined 10s. and 12s. 6d. costs
6	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto
7	Houses unfit for human habitation	June 21	Closing order made
8	Failing to comply with notice to quit premises unfit for human habitation	Aug. 16	Fined 7s. 6d. and 9s. 6d. costs
9	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto
10	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto
11	Default in complying with notice to abate a nuisance	Ditto	Order made
12	Preventing Inspector from examining meat	Sept. 20	Fined 20s. and 13s. 6d. costs
13	Selling adulterated mustard	*Jan. 17 1898	Fined 10s. & 14s. costs

* Sample purchased Dec. 16th, 1897.

Summary of Part of Work.

PREMISES INSPECTED.	{	Dwelling Houses	..	..	..	238
		Milk Shops and Cowsheds and Slaughter				
		Houses	..	..	..	12
		Stable premises	..	..	..	6
		Bakehouses	..	..	..	6
		Factories and Workshops		..	..	7
DRAINS.	{	Opened up for examination		..	..	42
		Tested	..	..	..	99
		Relaid	..	..	..	65
		Ventilated	..	..	..	45
		Soil and Vent Pipes tested		..	..	19
		Cesspools abolished	..	..	..	12
VISITS.	{	To infected premises	..	..	..	393
		To premises under notice for amendment		..	..	519
		Miscellaneous calls	..	..	..	745
		Rooms fumigated or sprayed		..	..	170
		Articles of bedding, etc. removed (in 127 lots)				7075
		Efficient flushing apparatuses attached to				
		closets	..	..	..	63
		Improved forms of W.C. apparatuses fixed		..	..	16
		"Sufficient" ashpits provided		..	..	48
		Premises from which animals improperly kept				
		were removed	..	..	..	10
		Premises closed as unfit for human habitation				9
		Samples taken..	..	..	..	68

Office Work during 1897.

Calls and communications received and entered	..	1945
Letters written .. .. .	..	1128
Reports made to Committee .. ..	..	23
Dust complaints received .. ..	..	28
Entries made in Nuisance Journal .. ..	..	231
Notices issued .. .. .	..	328
Entries made in Food and Drugs Register ..	..	60
Returns of Inspector's Work made to Committee	..	11
Entries made in Notification Register ..	..	143
Entries made in Reports of Infectious Diseases Register..	..	143
Entries made in Register of Cowsheds and Dairies	..	5
Entries made in Register of Bakehouses ..	..	6
Reports and Letters sent to Medical Officer of Health	..	253
Letters to Schoolmasters (<i>re</i> infectious illness) ..	..	291